

407 EAST *Environmental Assessment*

UPCOMING EVENTS

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE #1 - TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES (Alternatives to the Undertaking)

The Ministry of Transportation (MTO) commenced the 407 East Environmental Assessment (EA) study in February 2005. As part of the study, a series of four (4) Public Information Centres (PICs) are being planned to coincide with each of the study phases of the EA. The first PICs will present the defined problems and opportunities, evaluation of transportation alternatives, including a recommended alternative and a preliminary study area. The meetings' format will be a "drop-in" style where visitors can view the information panels, ask questions of the project team and provide formal comments.

The PICs will be held at the following locations:

Tues. May 30, 2006

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Garnett B Rickard
Recreation Complex
2440 Highway 2
Bowmanville

Wed. May 31, 2006

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
General Sikorski's Polish
Veteran's Club
1551 Stevenson Road North
Oshawa

Wed. June 7, 2006

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Ajax Community Centre
HMS Room
75 Centennial Road
Ajax

Thurs. June 8, 2006

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
McKinney Centre
222 McKinney Drive
Whitby

RECENTLY HELD EVENT

TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES WORKSHOP - February 4th, 2006

The 407 East project team conducted a workshop to discuss Transportation Alternatives (different ways of solving the transportation problems in the Study Area) and the assessment / evaluation criteria to be used to assess and evaluate these alternatives. Members of the Regulatory Agency Group, Municipal Technical Advisory Group and members and guests of the project's Community Advisory Group were invited to participate. The workshop was attended by 24 participants from the above noted groups and feedback was provided to the project team.

The workshop included a presentation by TSH and Gartner Lee Limited, which provided a brief overview of the study background, the federal and provincial Environmental Assessment Processes, Alternatives to the Undertaking, Evaluation Factors, Criteria and Measures as well as Evaluation approaches. At interim periods of the presentation, 'break-out' group sessions allowed for discussion in small groups. The 'break-out' group discussions as well as the presentation were facilitated by an independent facilitator to the project team, Ogilvie, Ogilvie and Company.

To view the workshop presentation and a summary of the comments provided please visit the project website, www.407eastea.com.

The project team wishes to thank those who participated in making the event a success.

In This Issue...

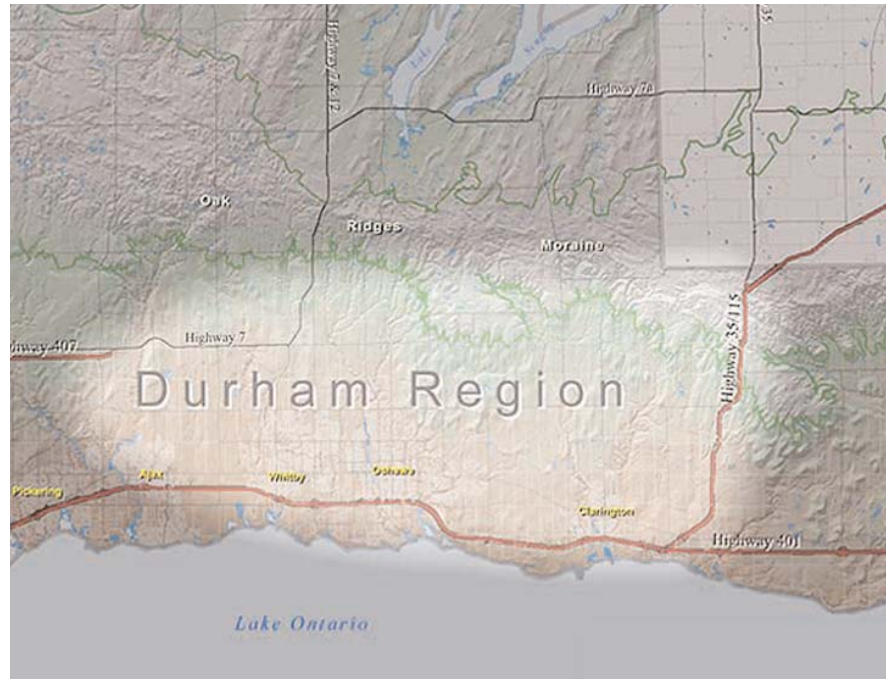
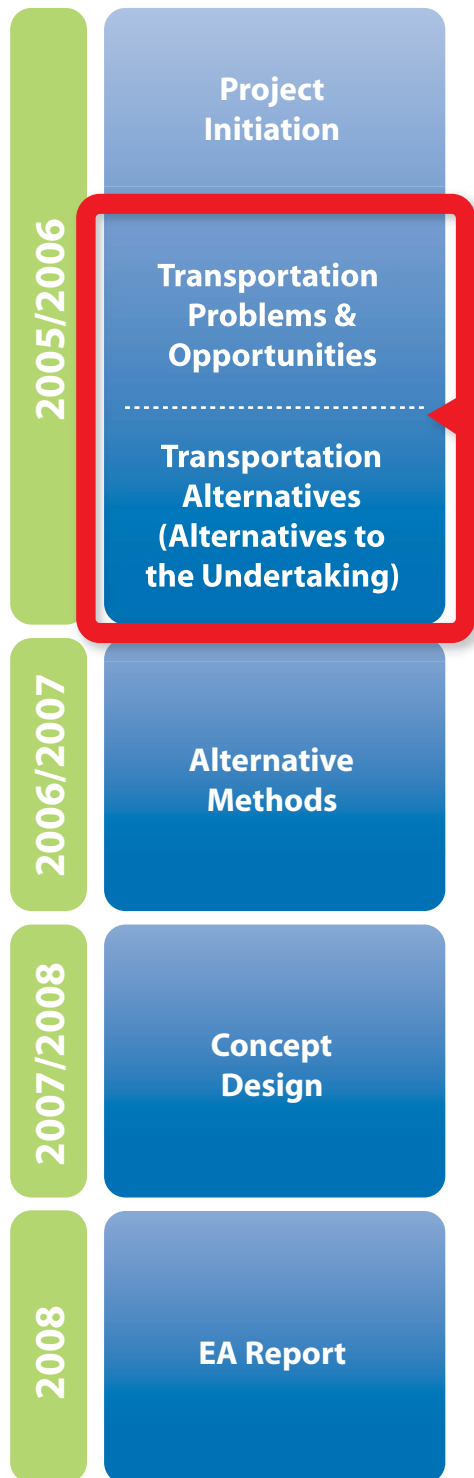
- Upcoming Events / Public Information Centre #1
- Workshop #1 - Alternatives to the Undertaking
- Transportation Assessment & Problem Definition Report

- Transportation Alternatives
- Places to Grow
- 407 ETR vs. 407 East EA

- Did You Know?
- What's Next?
- How can I get more information?

Transportation Assessment and Problem and Opportunity Definition Report (Transportation Problems and Opportunities)

The *Transportation Assessment and Problem and Opportunity Definition Report* provides a clear statement of the existing and forecasted future transportation problems and opportunities in the Analysis Area as shown below.

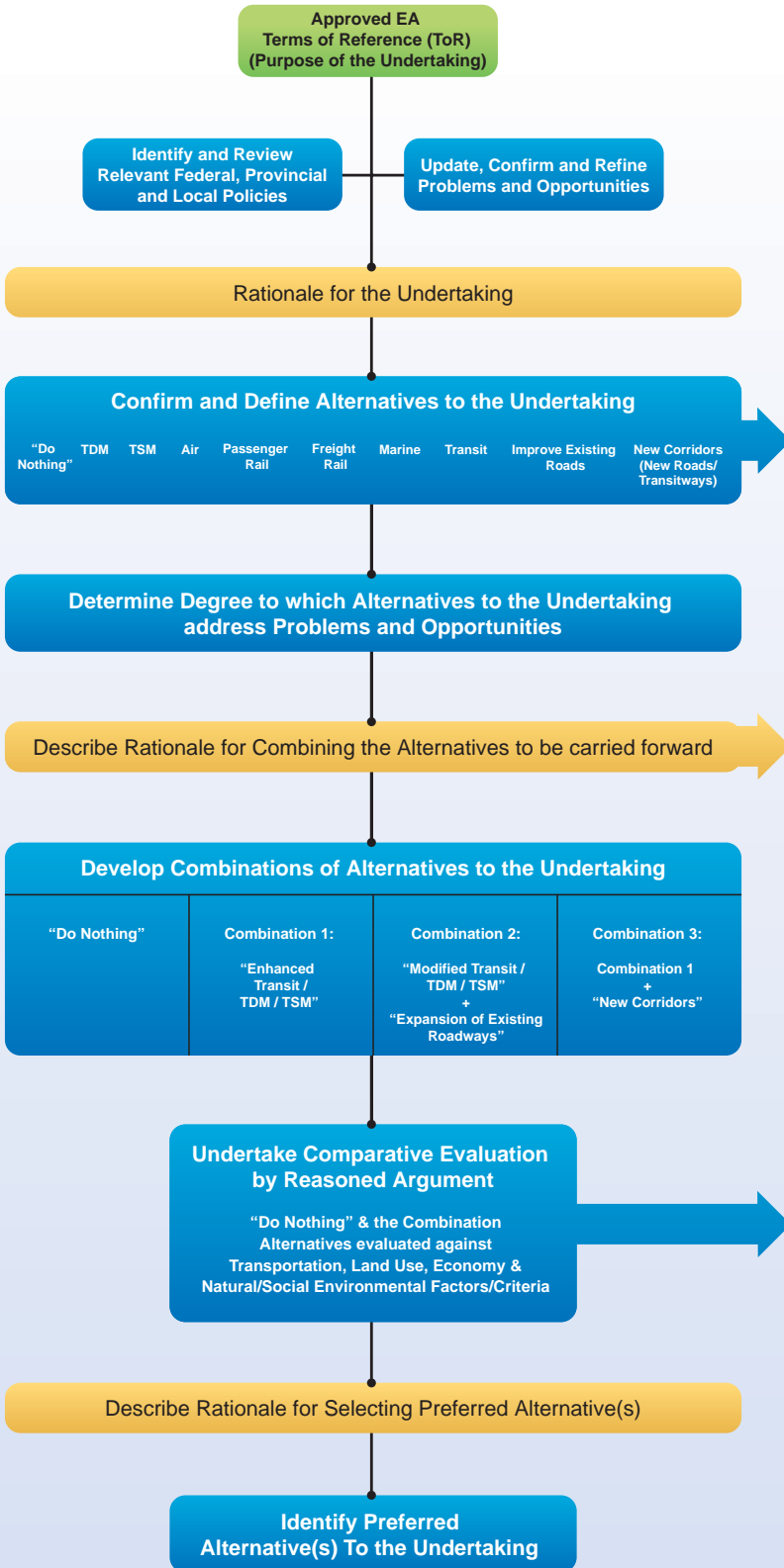


The problems and opportunities also considered existing and future land use economic and environmental effects. The report details some of the following findings:

- The eastern GTA including the Region of Durham and surrounding areas, requires a more efficient and reliable transportation system.
- Arterial roadways within the Region of Durham carry longer distance traffic that has been diverted from a congested Highway 401.
- A number of Regional roadways are operating at congested levels, resulting in unnecessary and undesirable social and natural environmental impacts that are difficult to mitigate.
- The existing and planned future transportation system is not appropriate to support a sustainable economic environment in Durham.
- There is a defined need to assess transportation requirements at a network level and evaluate the merits of several transportation network alternatives and modal shift opportunities relating to the future movement of people and goods.

The *Transportation Assessment and Problem and Opportunity Definition Report* has been refined through discussion, and input from municipalities, agencies and the public in the form of the Community Advisory Group. This report is available at the TSH local project office in Whitby.

Process Overview for the Transportation Alternatives (Alternatives to the Undertaking)



Provincial Transportation Alternatives (Alternatives to the Undertaking as defined in the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act) are those that address the movement of people and goods, or provide access to remote areas. The Transportation Alternatives have been defined in the Terms of Reference (TOR), as approved in January 2005. The Transportation Alternatives were assessed to determine the degree to which each would address the identified problems and opportunities.

The analysis of individual Alternatives to the Undertaking demonstrated that no single alternative effectively addresses the identified problem and opportunities. To best satisfy the goals and objectives of the study, including addressing basic transportation demand (the movement of people and goods), combinations of alternatives, would be required.

The combined Transportation Alternatives were assessed using five factor areas; Transportation, Land Use, Economy, Natural Environment and Social Environment and a preferred transportation alternative will be identified and carried forward.

The details of the evaluation and results of the assessment will be presented at Public Information Centre (PIC) #1 as detailed in this newsletter. If you would like more information regarding the PICs please contact the project team.

PLACES TO GROW

On June 13, 2005, the Places to Grow Act received Royal Assent. The act provides a legal framework for growth planning in Ontario. A regulation was also passed identifying the Greater Golden Horseshoe as the first area in the province for which a growth plan will be prepared under the Places to Grow Act. On November 24, 2005, a Proposed Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe was released for comment.

Planning for growth is particularly important since over the next 30 years, the number of people living in Ontario is expected to grow by approximately four million.

Different areas of Ontario face different challenges. Some regions, like the Greater Golden Horseshoe, are struggling with the impacts of rapid growth such as gridlock, urban sprawl and declining air quality. In other areas, communities are suffering because of the lack of growth. They need sustainable jobs and investment.

The Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal (PIR) has the overall responsibility for fostering and implementing the government's long-term plan for growth.

PIR works closely with other ministries like Economic Development and Trade, Agriculture and Food, Municipal Affairs and Housing, Environment, Natural Resources and Transportation to ensure a coordinated approach to growth planning." (Source: Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Renewal website, 2006).

For more information on the Proposed Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, please visit www.pir.gov.on.ca.

407 East EA vs. 407ETR

The 407 East EA is being undertaken by the Ministry of Transportation, and does not involve the 407ETR. Existing Highway 407 was constructed in the 1990s and leased to Cintra, also known as 407 ETR Concession Company Limited, on April 12, 1999. For more information please visit www.407etr.com.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- The Ministry of Transportation manages 16,520 km of highway, more than 2,800 bridges, 29 remote airports and 8 ferry services.
- There are 9.7 million registered vehicles, 8.5 million drivers and 75,000 commercial carriers licensed in Ontario.
- Each year, nearly \$1.2 trillion worth of goods move along our highways and strategic trade corridors, of which \$420 billion pass over Ontario's international bridge crossings.
- Approximately 94% of all Ontarians regularly travel on the provincial highways.
- Since 1999, Ontario roads have been the safest in Canada
- Most Canadian visitors travel by road (78%), followed by air (18%) and rail/water (4%).

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Confirm preferred Alternatives to the Undertaking and Study Area;
- Summarize results of Public Information Centre #1;
- Field work is now underway to support next phase of study; and
- Identify and assess alternative methods of implementing recommended undertaking.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION OR COMMENT ON THE STUDY?

Your comments and questions are always welcome and can be submitted at any time during the Environmental Assessment process. Your interest in this study is greatly appreciated.

All stakeholders and interested members of the public, who are on our contact mailing list from the Terms of Reference stage, will once again receive a mailed invitation to attend PICs. If you are new to the area, or know someone who would be interested in being added to the mailing list, please contact the project team through the phone/address at the bottom of the newsletter, and watch for upcoming information.

Project Contacts

Mr. Doug Allingham, P.Eng.
Consultant Project Manager
TSH
300 Water Street
Whitby, Ontario L1N 9J2
E-mail: projectteam@407eastea.com
Tel: 905.665.3474 or
1.866.840.5529 toll-free

Mr. Dan Remollino, P.Eng.
MTO Project Manager
Planning & Environmental Office
Building "D", 3rd Floor
1201 Wilson Avenue
Downsview, ON M3M 1J8
E-mail: projectteam@407eastea.com
Tel: 416.235.5576

Visit our project website for regular updates and notices of events:
www.407eastea.com

Get Involved... Be involved... Stay involved.